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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,423	01/12/2001	Paul Green	PGR-100	2318

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EXAMINER

WATSON, ROBERT C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3723

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,423

Applicant(s)

GREEN, PAUL

Examiner

Robert C. Watson

Art Unit

3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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Claims 1-12 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 2 "hitch coupler" is vague and indefinite. It is unclear what this structure is since there is no proper antecedent basis for this term in the description. It would appear that the actual "hitch coupler" would be the mating "ball / socket" on the trailer tongue / vehicle. Applicant's device is not mounted on any ball or socket.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over <sup>sweetland</sup> Linton et al in view of Kendrick.

<sup>sweetland</sup> Linton et al shows a vehicle jack selectively mountable on a vehicle. The mounting arrangement comprises a first piece 38 mounted to the vehicle and a second piece 32 mounted to the vehicle jack. The second piece can transition between a plurality of vertical positions relative to the first piece by virtue of the plural vertically spaced apertures 36 on the second piece. Pins 42 provide a means for releasably securing the second piece selectively relative to the first piece. The type of vehicle that is being jacked such a trailer is a matter of intended use that has no patentable significance. In any case the mount arrangement of Linton et al is seen to be capable of being connected to any vehicle including a trailer.

Kendrick teaches a jack being connected to a trailer, in particular, a trailer tongue used in being hitched to an automobile.

To utilize the Linton et al vehicle jack and its mounting arrangement on a trailer tongue would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Kendrick. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to enable the jack to lift a vehicle, in particular, a trailer having a trailer tongue.

Claims 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linton et al in view of Kendrick as above applied taken with Ebey.

The Linton et al mount arrangement lacks a means of selectively pivoting the jack to a horizontal or stored position.

Ebey teaches that by virtue of providing mating apertures and a locking pin a jack can be selectively pivotable between a horizontal position and a vertical position.

To provide addition mating holes in the first or second mounting pieces of Linton et al so as to enable the vehicle jack to be pivoted between a horizontal and a vertical position would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Ebey. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to enable the jack to be conveniently pivoted from a use to a stored position. Ebey teaches that the mounts may be removeably mounted while Linton et al teaches that the mounts may be permanently mounted. It is no more than an obvious matter of choice to select either of these mounting arrangements absent a showing of criticality.

Claims 13-20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 4.

Applicant's remarks have been given careful consideration. Applicant has amended the claims to recite the specific type of vehicle that the jack and mounting arrangement is connected to. Kendrick shows this specific type of vehicle having a jack and mounting arrangement connected thereto.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert C. Watson whose telephone number is 703 308-1747. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs. , 5:30am - 4:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail III can be reached on 703 308-2687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305-3579 for regular communications and 703 305-9835 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-1148.

rcw  
January 6, 2003



ROBERT C. WATSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER